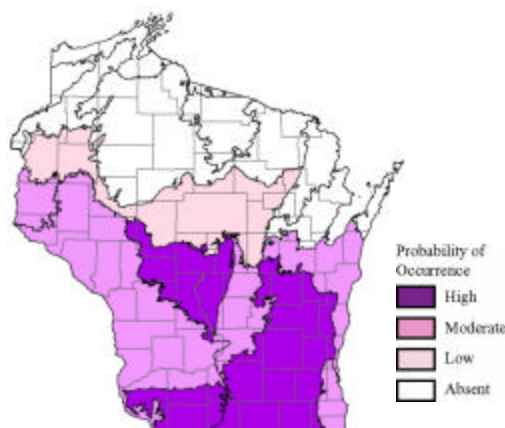


Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	5
State threats:	4
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	1
Global threats:	4
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	3.6
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Hills	Wet-mesic prairie
Central Sand Plains	Northern sedge meadow
Central Sand Plains	Shrub-carr
Central Sand Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southeast Glacial Plains	Dry prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Dry-mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Shrub-carr
Southeast Glacial Plains	Southern sedge meadow
Southeast Glacial Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southeast Glacial Plains	Wet-mesic prairie
Southern Lake Michigan Coastal	Wet-mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Dry prairie
Southwest Savanna	Dry-mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Surrogate grasslands
Southwest Savanna	Wet-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Surrogate grasslands
Western Prairie	Mesic prairie
Western Prairie	Surrogate grasslands

Threats and Issues

- Succession of preferred habitats to shrubland and woodland, due to lack of fire or other management to suppress woody growth.
- Flooding of wet meadows.
- The effects of wind farm development on populations of this species are unknown.

- Intensification of agriculture, including early and frequent harvest of hay and conversion of grassland and wet meadows to row crops or tree plantations.
- Loss of grassland habitat due to development. Habitat fragmentation is an issue for this area-sensitive species.
- Disturbance of grassland cover during the breeding or wintering season
- Overgrazing reduces habitat quality for this species.
- Agricultural pesticides may pose a threat.
- Habitat-related loss of small mammal populations as a winter food source is a threat.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Maintain habitat in large blocks, preferably 250 acres and greater.
- Conduct research to determine if wind farm development harms this species.
- Continue agricultural set-aside programs, especially those that allow for permanent protection of preferred habitats.
- Work with planning and zoning authorities to protect valuable open grassland landscapes from being converted to urban or suburban development.
- Partnerships are key for conserving this species in working agricultural landscapes.
- Maintain healthy populations of grassland small mammals as a prey base via maintenance of extensive open and idle grasslands.